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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

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Wheat Thriving on Larger Acreage

On a total acreage about a sixth larger than was seeded for last year's crop, winter wheat developed well in December, aided by favorable weather in principal wheat areas. Much of the Great Plains acreage appears to be the most promising in many years. In some Southern Central, and Eastern areas, however, water-logged soils have yellowed some fields; in the South, wet weather prevented seeding of some intended winter crops.

Much of the plains country had a mild, open December, which in the Dakotas was the most favorable and pleasant in many years.

Citrus, Vegetables, Reduced by Southern Freezes

Winter pushed southward in savage thrusts in early December and again in mid-December, killing tender vegetables in Texas and Florida and dealing severe damage to Florida citrus. More recent storms and cold, in early January, appear to have further reduced prospective supplies of Florida citrus and vegetables for winter markets.

Orange Crop Off 18% from Last Year

As of January 1, the U. S. orange crop (including tangerines) was estimated at 112.3 million boxes, 18 percent below last year's crop and 8 percent under average. Mid-December freeze in Florida caused a reduction of 23.5 million boxes while production in Texas, Arizona, and Louisiana was unchanged from the December 1 estimates. California Navel production appeared down slightly from a month earlier.

The National total was made up as follows: Early and Midseason oranges, 61.3 million boxes; Valencias, 48.0 million, and Florida tangerines 3.0 million. Early and midseason production is down 14 percent, Valencias 21 percent and Florida tangerines about a third, from last year. Note: Final production of early and midseason oranges will depend on how much of the dropped fruit (caused by December freeze) is utilized by processors. (Estimates were made before the recent January freezes).

Grapefruit Production Reduced

Grapefruit, at 40.8 million boxes, will be 9 percent below last year's production and 12 percent under average. The reduction of 3.9 million boxes from last month's estimate was caused by the mid-December Florida freeze.

Lemon Crop Above Average

The estimate for California lemons, unchanged from December at 14.7 million boxes, is 9 percent below last year's production but 13 percent above average.

Large Stocks of Feed Grains

Stocks of feed grains on farms January 1 were about an eighth larger than a year earlier and more than a fifth larger than the 1947-56 average. Stocks of corn were up 5 percent, oats up 21 percent, barley up 29 percent, and sorghum grain 3 times as much as a year earlier. The nearly 2½ billion bushels of corn on farms January 1 were close to the record reached in 1949; oats were estimated at 854 million bushels, barley at 209 million, and sorghum grain at 205 million.

Hay Plentiful, Scarcer in East

The 87 million tons of hay on farms January 1 were 18 percent above 1957, 23 percent above average and an all-time record for this date. Increases varied considerably by regions, being greatest in the Central States west of the Mississippi where droughts prior to 1957 caused short crops. Increases over a year earlier were most impressive in South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa,

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Nov. 15 1957	Dec. 15 1957	December 1957
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer., upland (lb.)	31.13	28.19	37.43
Wheat (bu.)	1.93	1.94	2.50
Rice (100 lb.)	5.04	4.83	5.83
Corn (bu.)	³ .985	.989	1.81
Peanuts (lb.)	10.7	10.8	13.6
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)	59.0	59.2	75.0
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)	4.62	¹ 4.53	4.87
Wool (lb.)	² 47.5	² 46.4	66.1
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)852	.859	1.38
Cottonseed (ton)	50.00	50.50	72.70
Flaxseed (bu.)	2.94	3.01	4.60
Hay, baled (ton)	18.90	19.20	25.20
Oats (bu.)614	.618	.885
Potatoes (cwt.)	1.68	1.61	2.47
Rye (bu.)	1.02	.985	1.69
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)	³ 1.42	1.56	2.69
Soybeans (bu.)	2.04	2.06	3.05
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)	3.32	5.07	5.26
Oranges, on tree (box)	1.66	1.23	2.57
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)	2.18	2.34	2.92
Beef cattle (100 lb.)	17.80	18.70	22.70
Calves (100 lb.)	19.50	20.90	24.80
Hogs (100 lb.)	16.70	17.90	22.10
Lambs (100 lb.)	20.00	20.50	25.20
Chickens, all (lb.)	15.8	15.6	28.9
Eggs (dozen)	45.3	44.4	48.4

¹ Preliminary.

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

³ Revised.

Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Stocks were below a year ago in both the North Atlantic and South Atlantic regions where the hay crop was shorter than usual because of a summer drought in many sections.

Other Stocks on Farms, January 1

Wheat--292 million bushels, compared with 294 million in 1957 and 364 million 1947-56 average. Current stocks, while only about 1 percent below a year earlier, were one-fifth less than the average and were the lowest since 1941. Nearly one-fourth of the stocks were under Government loan.

Rye--9.7 million bushels, 37 percent above the stocks on farm a year earlier. On farms a year ago, 7 million; average also about 7 million.

Soybeans--A record 188 million bushels, up from last year by 13 percent and 118 percent above the 10-year January 1 average. Farmers this year were holding a higher than usual percentage of their record 1957 production of 480 million bushels and their carryover of 3.6 million.

Flaxseed--8.8 million bushels, smallest January farm stocks since 1949. The stocks were less than half those of a year earlier and nearly

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Nov. 1956	Jan.-Nov. 1957
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	¹ 125.7	¹ 127.0
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	2,386	2,316
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food)	Mil. lb.	1,425	1,565
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	1,307	1,315
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	928	959
Ice cream	Mil. gal.	603	607
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs	Billions	¹ 61.0	¹ 60.7
Poultry meat ²	Mil. lb.	4,407	4,559
Canned poultry	Mil. lb.	179	205
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	452	463
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	20.5	27.5
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	342	326
Chicks hatched, total ³	Millions	¹ 2,124	¹ 2,097
Chicks hatched, broiler ³	Millions	¹ 1,456	¹ 1,542
Poulters hatched ³ :			
Heavy breeds	Millions	¹ 70.0	¹ 70.6
Light breeds	Millions	¹ 15.0	¹ 12.9
<u>Meat Production ²</u> (dressed weight)			
Beef	Mil. lb.	12,947	12,768
Veal	Mil. lb.	1,430	1,337
Pork	Mil. lb.	9,390	8,697
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	672	642
Total red meat	Mil. lb.	24,439	23,444
<u>Slaughter ²</u>			
Cattle	1,000 head	24,678	24,205
Calves	1,000 head	11,549	10,948
Hogs	1,000 head	71,724	65,993
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	14,805	13,853

a third less than average. Two thirds of the U. S. total was in North Dakota, most of the remaining in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Montana.

Smaller Crop of Winter Potatoes

Production of winter potatoes is forecast at 5,690,000 hundredweight. This would be 16 percent below 1957 but 51 percent above the 1949-56 average.

Growers of late spring potatoes report intentions to plant 172,900 acres in 1958, down 1 percent from acreage planted last year and 13 percent below the 1949-56 average.

Larger Milk Total, Less Per Capita

The 9,384 million pounds of milk produced in December amounted to nearly 2 percent more than for the same month a year earlier and exceeded the 1946-55 average for the month by 14 percent. Total produced in December was enough

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1956		1957		
	Dec.	Yr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	59.4	58.4	59.2	59.1	59.0
Farm employment	5.8	7.9	9.2	7.2	5.8
Family	4.8	6.0	6.9	5.6	4.7
Hired	1.0	1.9	2.3	1.6	1.0
Index numbers (1947-49=100)					
Industrial production ²	147	143	141	139	136
Total personal income payments ³	166	162	171	171	-
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	171	161	163	161	158
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	159	151	156	157	157
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	116	114	118	118	118
Farm commodities	89	88	92	92	93
Food, processed	103	102	106	106	106
Consumer price index ⁴	118	116	121	122	-
Food	113	112	116	116	-
Index numbers (1910-14=100)					
Prices received by farmers	235	235	240	242	242
Crops	237	240	224	224	218
Food grains	234	224	219	221	221
Feed grains and hay	185	185	156	152	152
Cotton	262	268	273	263	239
Tobacco	461	453	483	473	466
Oil bearing crops	264	250	231	235	237
Fruit	205	219	187	187	180
Vegetables for fresh market	263	247	221	241	240
Livestock and products	233	230	254	258	264
Meat animals	239	238	274	278	294
Dairy products	274	259	277	279	275
Poultry and eggs	165	177	180	188	185
Prices paid by farmers					
All commodities	268	264	273	275	276
Used in living	283	278	286	289	288
Used in production	252	249	258	260	262
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)	290	285	296	298	299
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted	550	536	565	565	565
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)	81	82	81	81	81

¹ January-December

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

³ By commercial hatcheries.

¹ Bureau of the Census.

² Federal Reserve Board.

³ Department of Commerce.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

to provide 1.75 pounds of milk daily to each person in the country, slightly less than in December 1956.

Last year's total production, tentative (the sum of the 12 monthly milk production estimates in 1957) was 127.0 billion pounds, 1 percent more than the previous high of 125.7 billion in 1956. (Revised estimates to be published February 17).

Eggs Laid, Down 5 Percent

Hens laid slightly over 5 billion eggs in December. This was 5 percent less than in December 1956. Decreases were 9 percent in the North Atlantic States, 8 percent in the South Central, 6 percent in East North Central, 4 percent in the West North Central and 1 percent in the South Atlantic States. Rate per layer in December was 15.7 eggs, compared with 15.6 in December 1956 and the 10-year average of 12.7 eggs.

Nation's laying flock averaged 319,975,000 layers during December, 5 percent less than December 1956. Potential layers, January 1, 349,775,000, showed a 6 percent decrease.

Better Prices for Eggs, Chickens Lower

Eggs brought producers an average of 44.4 cents per dozen in mid-December, compared with 37.1 cents year earlier. Chickens (farm chickens and commercial broilers) brought 15.6 cents a pound liveweight compared with 15.8 cents a year earlier. Turkeys averaged farmers 24.8 cents per pound liveweight, compared with 27.8 cents a year earlier.

Lower Feed Costs for Egg Producers

Feeding for eggs was more favorable to producers in mid-December than a year earlier. The broiler-feed price ratio was about the same as a year earlier, while the turkey-feed price ratio was less favorable. Cost of feed averaged \$3.32 per 100 lbs. in mid-December, compared with \$3.56 a year earlier.

Smaller Rice Supply

The supply of rice in the marketing year 1957-58 will be about 63.5 million cwt., smallest in the past 3 years. Total includes August 1 carryover of 20.1 million cwt., the reduced 1957 crop of 43.2 million, and imports of 0.2 million, mostly of broken rice.

More Rice Used Per Capita

Rice consumption in continental United States in the marketing year 1956-57 amounted to 5.9 pounds per person, up 11 percent in the past 3 years. Promotional work by the rice industry and the distribution of CCC stocks to schools and welfare institutions contributed to the increase. (See the Rice Situation, released December 30, AMS, USDA).

Fewer Sheep and Lambs on Feed

The 3,938,000 sheep and lambs on feed January 1, for market, were down about 8 percent or 364,000 head from a year earlier. A substantial

part of the decrease was in the Western States. For the 11 Corn Belt States, the 2,309,000 on feed were 1 percent less than the 2,341,000 on feed January 1, 1957.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings by States, November 1957¹

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	8,389	7,301	15,690
New Hampshire.....	4,979	1,336	6,315
Vermont.....	8,571	679	9,250
Massachusetts.....	10,820	8,915	19,735
Rhode Island.....	1,394	674	2,068
Connecticut.....	10,329	7,759	18,088
New York.....	51,476	16,915	68,391
New Jersey.....	17,854	8,396	26,250
Pennsylvania.....	50,464	12,611	63,075
North Atlantic.....	164,276	64,586	228,862
Ohio.....	53,379	35,430	88,809
Indiana.....	56,560	32,634	89,194
Illinois.....	95,282	72,026	167,308
Michigan.....	30,244	30,274	60,518
Wisconsin.....	74,966	9,143	84,109
East North Central.....	310,431	179,507	489,938
Minnesota.....	81,570	38,694	120,264
Iowa.....	161,454	41,157	202,611
Missouri.....	55,832	37,797	93,629
North Dakota.....	21,422	36,249	57,671
South Dakota.....	44,396	17,564	61,960
Nebraska.....	61,711	34,135	95,846
Kansas.....	42,868	26,769	69,637
West North Central.....	469,253	232,365	701,618
Delaware.....	5,626	3,791	9,417
Maryland.....	13,976	6,851	20,827
Virginia.....	22,941	40,730	63,671
West Virginia.....	8,213	3,271	11,484
North Carolina.....	21,859	69,527	91,386
South Carolina.....	8,413	20,172	28,585
Georgia.....	27,137	31,365	58,502
Florida.....	14,224	39,703	53,927
South Atlantic.....	122,389	215,410	337,799
Kentucky.....	22,385	48,161	70,546
Tennessee.....	17,864	38,739	56,603
Alabama.....	18,114	24,382	42,496
Mississippi.....	15,106	49,352	64,458
Arkansas.....	16,836	81,468	98,304
Louisiana.....	10,744	35,953	46,697
Oklahoma.....	23,816	20,232	44,048
Texas.....	68,320	188,613	256,933
South Central.....	193,185	486,900	680,085
Montana.....	31,841	24,252	56,093
Idaho.....	13,025	38,833	51,858
Wyoming.....	12,354	7,555	19,909
Colorado.....	27,569	28,466	56,035
New Mexico.....	21,131	17,191	38,322
Arizona.....	11,042	51,035	62,077
Utah.....	10,880	5,945	16,825
Nevada.....	3,714	924	4,638
Washington.....	16,005	40,476	56,481
Oregon.....	17,564	20,685	38,249
California.....	93,793	272,635	366,428
Western.....	258,918	507,997	766,915
United States.....	1,518,452	1,686,765	3,205,217

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Community Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

	November 1957	
CASH RECEIPTS:		
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	
Total marketings and CCC loans ²	3,205	
Livestock and products	1,518	
Meat animals	826	
Dairy products.....	363	
Poultry and eggs.....	312	
Other	17	
Crops	1,687	
Food grains.....	154	
Feed crops	318	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	405	
Oil-bearing crops.....	214	
Tobacco	107	
Vegetables	130	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	158	
Other	201	
Government payments	62	
Grand total	3,267	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:		
	1947-49 = 100	
All commodities	151	
Livestock and products.....	130	
Crops.....	178	

¹For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ²Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share
1956 average	972	390	582	40
1956 November.....	981	390	591	40
1957 October	1,017	401	616	39
1957 November	1,011	407	604	40

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

Winter Vegetable Production Below Average

Indications on January 1 pointed to production of winter vegetables slightly below 1957 and 3 percent below average. Greatest reductions are for snap beans, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, green peppers, and tomatoes. Larger production than last year was indicated for winter production of cabbage, celery, escarole and lettuce. Adverse weather in Florida and Texas on January 9 is not reflected in the above estimates but will be covered in the February 1 forecasts.

3% Fewer Cattle on Feed

The 5,867,000 head of cattle and calves on feed January 1 was 3 percent less than a year earlier when 6,067,000 head were on feed; 1952-56 average for the same date, 5,552,000 head.

In the Corn Belt, 4,399,000 head were on feed compared with 4,375,000 a year earlier.

26% Fewer Farm Workers Than 10 Years Ago

For the 10th year in a row the number of persons at work on farms has shown a decline from the preceding year. The annual average of 7,649,000 workers for 1957 was nearly 3 percent below 1956 and down 26 percent from the number 10 years ago.

Family labor over these years has shown a sharper decline than hired workers--28 percent fewer family workers engaged in farm work than 10 years ago, 19 percent fewer hired workers.

Higher Farm Wage Rates

For the year 1957, average farm wage rates were up a little more than 3 percent from 1956. Monthly rate with house averaged \$168; daily rate without board or room, \$5.80; and the average hourly rate without board or room was 88 cents. Wages vary considerably by States. (Further details in Farm Labor report of January 10, Crop Reporting Board, AMS, USDA.)